

IRAN/IRAQ

ADVANCE COPIES

22

PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR HURD
PS/PJS
SIR E YOUDE
SIR J GRAHAM
MR J C HOBERLY
MR BRAITHWAITE
HD/MED
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IMMEDIATE

RESIDENT CLERK

SIR A. Adams

CONFIDENTIAL

FM AMMAN 111055Z MAR 81

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 092 OF 11 MAR

INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD ROUTINE JEDDA TEHRAN UKMIS NEWYORK AND
WASHINGTON

INFO SAVING TO MOSCOW

MY TELNO 88 OF 10 MARCH AND BAGHDAD TELNO 144 OF 7 MARCH:

IRAQ/IRAN

1. WHEN SEEING KING HUSSEIN LAST NIGHT I ASKED FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO IRAQ FROM 3-5 MARCH.
2. KING HUSSEIN CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE DAY HE HAD SPENT VISITING IRAQI UNITS IN ONE SECTOR OF THE FRONT AND PARTICULARLY BY THE DIFFICULTIES THEY HAD HAD TO FACE OWING TO THE UNFAVOURABLE TERRAIN. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE IRAQIS HAD SO FAR TRIED TO AVOID NEEDLESS MILITARY HUMILIATION OF IRAN, BUT WITH THE RAINY SEASON NOW COMING TO AN END AND WITH NO END TO THE WAR IN SIGHT, HE THOUGHT THE IRAQIS WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO HIT THE IRANIANS REALLY HARD. MORALE IN THE IRAQI UNITS HE HAD VISITED WAS HIGH AND THE IRAQIS SEEMED TO BE COPING WELL WITH THEIR SUPPLY PROBLEMS.
3. THE KING SAID HE HAD FOUND THE IRAQI LEADERS MORE THAN EVER DISSILLUSIONED WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE THOUGHT THEY WERE ONLY

3. THE KING SAID HE HAD FOUND THE IRAQI LEADERS MORE THAN EVER DISSILLUSIONED WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE THOUGHT THEY WERE ONLY WAITING FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING TO REVEAL FULLY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RUSSIANS HAD LET THEM DOWN AND THAT, WHEN THEY DID SO, THERE WOULD BE A COMPLETE BREAK AND A FUNDAMENTAL REALIGNMENT OF IRAQI FOREIGN POLICY.

4. THE KING SAID HE HAD BEEN 'FLABBERGASTED' BY THE INEPTITUDE OF THE ISLAMIC GOODWILL MISSION. THEY HAD VISITED BAGHDAD WHILE HE WAS THERE AND HAD LEFT A LARGE BATCH OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE IRAQIS IN SEALED ENVELOPES WITH THE REQUEST THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL AFTER THE MISSION HAD LEFT. THEIR ACTUAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IRAQIS HAD BEEN VERY BRIEF. THE KING BELIEVED THAT THE PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MISHANDLED MATTERS AND PUT THE EMPHASIS ON THE WRONG POINTS. THE MISSION ALSO SEEMED TO HAVE DRAWN A BLANK IN TEHRAN. I ASKED THE KING WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE DONE TO TRY TO BRING THE CONFLICT TO AN END. HE THOUGHT, THAT AS LONG AS THE ISLAMIC MISSION PURPORTED TO BE STILL IN BUSINESS, THERE WAS LITTLE ANYONE ELSE COULD DO. AT PRESENT THE IRANIANS ONLY SEEMED PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE AN END TO THE WAR ON TERMS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE IRAQIS TO ACCEPT. THE KING SAID HE WAS HIMSELF COMPOSING A LONG MESSAGE CONCERNING THE MISSION TO PRINCE FAHD IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO MOSCOW.

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